

Spoiling a New Drill Press Vise (On Purpose), version 1.0

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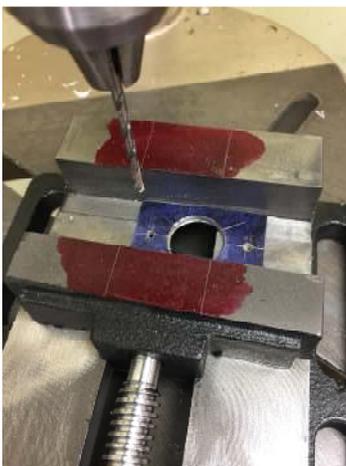
I have put up with various substitutes for a good drill press vise for my entire life. Most of the time the alternatives were as good as or even better than a standard low profile vise.



But recently I decided to upgrade. I bought a DELTA 20-622 4-Inch Quick Release Drill Press Vise. Except for the manufacturer forgetting to tighten the set screw that holds in the screw, it was flawless. Not a single mark on those nicely machined ways.

One look at my mill vise and you will see that over the years I have had my share of mishaps. It can be difficult for me to judge the edges of the ways and once in a while a drill goes right in. So how do I avoid tagging these new vise ways?

It occurred to me, maybe I'm thinking about this all wrong. Maybe I should intentionally tag the vise *now* to avoid more mess later!



I put some Dykem on the tops of the jaws and scribed lines that aligned with the inside edges of the ways. It made it easy to line up the part so my drill bit would miss the ways.

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My permanent solution was to drill 4 shallow holes and fill them with red nail polish.



When dry, I sanded the red spots flat².

With luck, these 4 holes will be the last ones I drill into my nice new vise.

I welcome your comments and questions.

If you wish to be contacted each time I publish an article, email me with just "Article Alias" in the subject line.

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² An alternate trick is to drill 1/8" diameter holes about 1/4" deep. Then snip off a 1/4" long piece of bright orange Weed Wacker line and stuff it down the hole. If necessary, use a razor to shave the end flush. I did this on my mill table about 20 years ago and they still look good.